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Issues and Conflicts

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BOOKS

Anderson, George L., ed. *Issues and Conflicts*. Lawrence, Kans., University of Kansas Press, 1959. 374 p.

Do formal statements of philosophies of history come after the event and when such limited validity as they may possess has already become largely if not altogether obsolete? A writer claims that Mahan's book on the influence of sea power upon history, published in 1890, came after the end of the monopoly by sea of the world's basic pathways of communication. Steam locomotives or rails had already opened land masses to challenge the sea as the bases of power. Mac-kinder's statements of the land mass basis of power — his geographical pivot of history — was fully elaborated after air power had already become a reality. Before World War II was over, Mackinder was discredited. Has the challenge of the mid-twentieth century reduced geography to a status so definitely minor in relation to technology that all military thinking and traditional theories of power must be reappraised? Just how has the contriving brain acted as a pivot of history? Why has anti-Americanism thrived in Latin America in spite of the New Deal and Good Neighbor Policy, and why is it a factor to be considered in the international relations of the United States today? Do Latin Americans have a hatred for American imperialism, customs, conception of life, incapacity for the fine arts and lack of ideals? Should Hispanic culture and values be defended and protected at all costs from the encroachment of United States culture? Does history repeat itself in the identification of interests achieved in recent years between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany which offers a striking parallel to the development of German-American relations after the First World War? Is American influence in Europe based on Germany, and does Germany's position in the world depend largely on American success? Why is the close sympathy and instinctive understanding between Americans and Germans difficult

to analyze and to explain? Why does the German find the Frenchman too logical and precise, the Englishman too vague and instinctive, the Italian too subtle and ingenious and the Russian too insincere, but the American at once practical and convincing? These questions and many others on a wide variety of subjects are presented in a collection of essays prepared for a symposium on American diplomatic history held at the University of Kansas in 1957. The director of this symposium has edited them in a book entitled *Issues and Conflicts*. They are generally highly interesting, some controversial, and all brief enough to read individually in less than one hour. There are fifteen in all and if time is of the essence only those that hold a particular interest to the reader may be read. You may not agree with the authors' viewpoints, but after you read the individual essays, your thinking is guaranteed to be stimulated on the particular subject considered.

Eccles, Henry E. *Logistics in the National Defense*. Harrisburg, Pa. Stackpole, 1959. 347 p.

In this comprehensive study of logistics, RADM Eccles has incorporated and expanded many of his earlier writings and lectures. His own views are well supported by liberal quotations from other authorities, and by extensive reference to other works. Throughout this book, the author places primary emphasis on "perspective of command"; the need for a thorough understanding of the interrelationships among the various aspects of logistics; and the proper relationship of logistics to strategy and tactics and to the national economy, to enable the military commander to exercise proper control and coordination to his logistic support. The author stresses also the need for effective advance planning, to insure that the proper materials will be available when and where needed, and in proper amount — to insure equitable distribution among various subordinate commanders, in proportion to the importance and urgency of their respective missions, without serious deficiency or needless waste. His comments on organiza-